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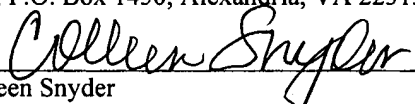
DOCKET NO.: D0188.70125US00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dennis Cherok et al.
Serial No.: 09/661,623
Confirmation No.: 8712
Filed: September 14, 2000
For: IMPLANTABLE PROSTHESIS
Examiner: William H. Matthews
Art Unit: 3738

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the January 13, 2005.


Colleen Snyder

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

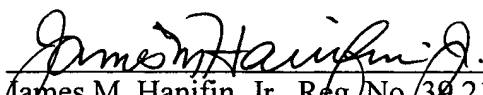
Transmitted herewith are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. PTO Form 1449 with cited references; and
3. Return Receipt Postcard.

If the enclosed papers are considered incomplete, the Mail Room and/or the Application Branch is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (617) 646-8000, Boston, Massachusetts.

A check is not enclosed. If a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 23/2825. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
James M. Hanifin, Jr., Reg. No. 39,213
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
Telephone: (617) 646-8000

Date: January 13, 2005
xNDD



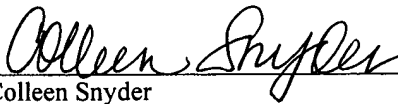
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Colleen Snyder

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**STATEMENT FILED PURSUANT TO THE DUTY OF
DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56, 1.97 AND 1.98**

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

PART I: Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement has been filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

No fee or certification is required.

PART II: Compliance with 37 CFR §1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this

communication was not received by the office of the undersigned more than 30 days prior to filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

PART III: Information Cited

The Applicant hereby makes of record in the above-identified application the information listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified). The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the references.

The Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention the enclosed search report from corresponding European Patent Application No. EP 04 02 0837.

PART IV: Remarks

Documents cited anywhere in the Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed unless otherwise indicated. It is respectfully requested that:

1. The Examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;
2. The enclosed form PTO-1449 be signed by the Examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application;
3. The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicant makes no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined by 35 U.S.C. §102.

Serial No.: 09/661,623
Conf. No.: 8712

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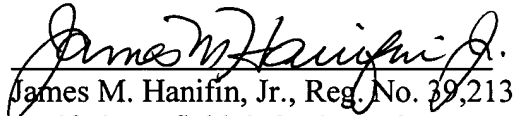
Art Unit: 3738

Notwithstanding any statements by the Applicant, the Examiner is urged to form his own conclusion regarding the relevance of the cited information.

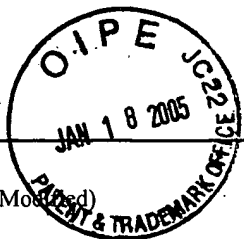
An early and favorable action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


James M. Hanifin, Jr., Reg. No. 39,213
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
Telephone: (617) 646-8000

Date: January 13, 2005
xNDD



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| FORM PTO-1449/A and B (Modified) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | | | APPLICATION NO.: 09/661,623 | | ATTY. DOCKET NO.: D0188.70125US00 | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE: September 14, 2000 | | CONFIRMATION NO.: 8712 | | | |
| | | | | APPLICANT: Dennis Cherok et al. | | | | | |
| | | | | GROUP ART UNIT: 3738 | | EXAMINER: William H. Matthews | | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | | | | | | |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner's Initials | Cite No. | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication or of issue of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|--|--|
| | | Number | Kind Code | | |
| | | 5,954,767 | | Pajotin et al. | 09/21/1999 |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner's Initials | Cite No. | Foreign Patent Document | | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document (not necessary) | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Translation (Y/N) |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------|--------------|---|---|----------------------|
| | | Office/ Country | Number | Kind Code | | | |
| | | WO | 01/08594 | A | Nicolo | 02/08/2001 | |
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OTHER ART — NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner's Initials | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS) title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, relevant page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | Translation (Y/N) |
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| EXAMINE R | DATE CONSIDERED |
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#EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

*a copy of this reference is not provided as it was previously cited by or submitted to the office in a prior application, Serial No. __, filed __, and relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 (continuation, continuation-in-part, and divisional applications).

[NOTE - The Office hereby waives the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC 371 after June 30, 2003. See 37 CFR 1.491(b). For all patent applications filed on or before June 30, 2003, copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are still required unless an eIDS is filed. Copies of all other patent(s), publication(s), or other information listed must still be provided, even if it was previously submitted to, or cited by, the U.S. Patent Office in an earlier application, unless the earlier application is identified by the IDS and is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120, and the copy was provided in the earlier application.]